HER

VS. A GOD GONE MAD!

COLDBLOOD

THE CONCLUSION!

BLACK PANTHER

STUCK IN SOUTH AFRICA!

MARVEL

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MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

EXCALIBUR

FEATURING:

NIGHTCRAWLER

VS. THE CIRCUS OF DOOM!

PLUS 3 OTHER ALL NEW FEATURES!

MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS™

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"A DAY AT THE CIRCUS" — PART 5 OF 8
Oh, the insanity of it all! Nightcrawler finds himself a monster among men—or does he?

"BARRIERS" — PART 23 OF 25
The Black Panther approaches Magistrate of Communications Anton Pretorius's secluded estate atop Devils Peak. His quest to find his mother beckons at this magnificent fortress! But there are many barriers the Great Cat must overcome before he can even learn if his mother's alive!

"THE KILLING GROUND" — PART 10 OF 10
Battling their way through a maze of traps and assassins, both human and robotic, Coldblood and Gina Dyson finally reach a power station, where Gina shuts down Mako's radio-control of Coldblood's internal computer, as well as all boobytraps and robotic threats. Thus, it comes down to a final one-on-one struggle between cyborg and maker, Coldblood and Mako . . . who nevertheless maintains direct, hands-on control of one last trick—his lethal Weapon-Walker . . .

"GODS R' US"
Created by man, she is a self-styled god in search of humanity. Since leaving Earth, the planet of Her creation, she has wandered the stars hoping to find some answers to the millions of questions which plague Her . . .

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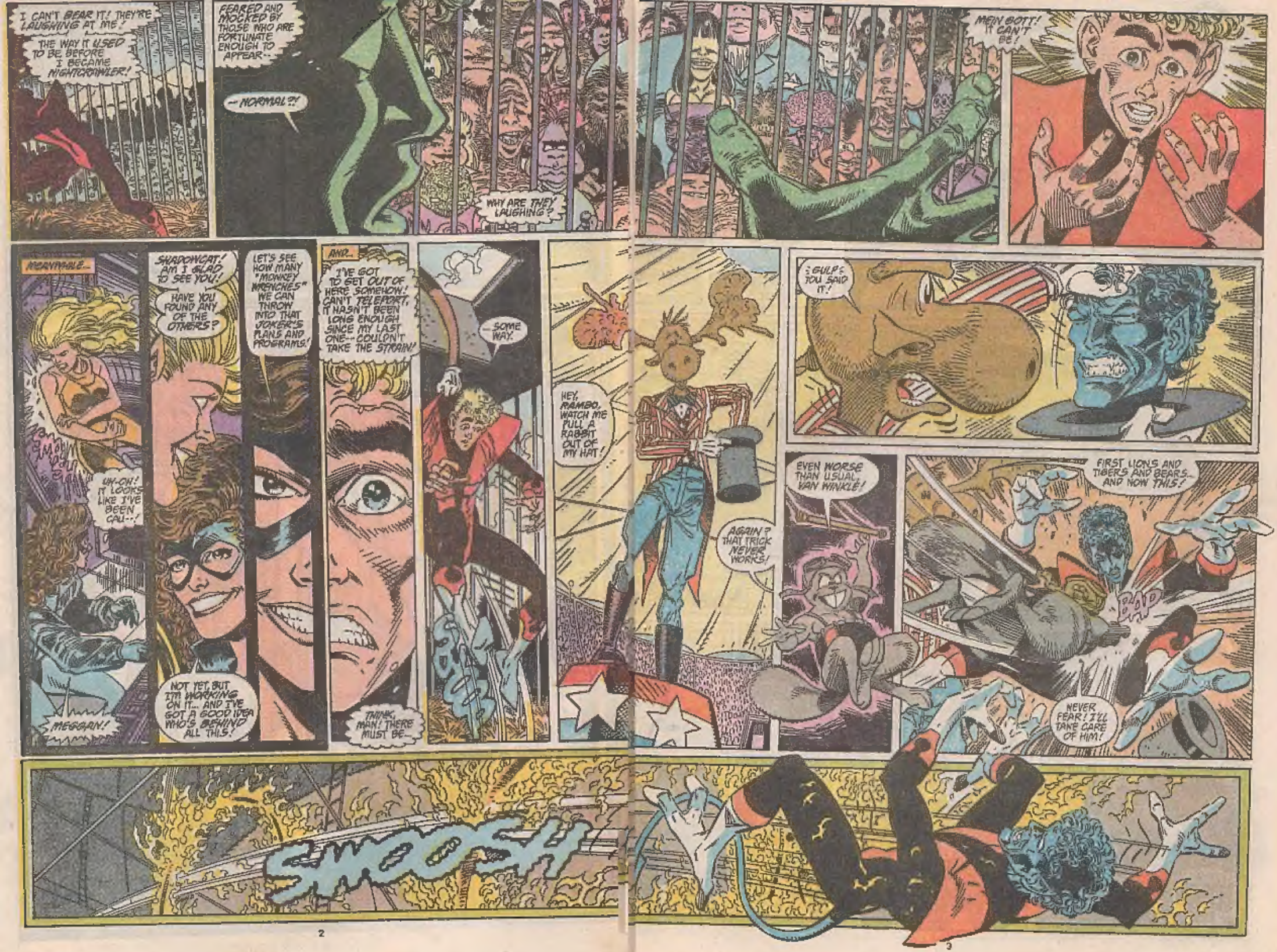
TO SLEEP...
...PERCHANCE...
...TO DREAM?
EXCALIBUR
FEATURING:
NIGHTCRAWLER
in
A DAY AT THE CIRCUS
HAVING A WILD WEEKEND! PART 3
NO! NO!
HA HA HA!
HA HA HA!


I CAN'T BEAR IT! THEY'RE LAUGHING AT ME!
THE WAY IT USED TO BE BEFORE I BECAME NIGHTCRAWLER!
FEARED AND MOCKED BY THOSE WHO ARE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO APPEAR--
--NORMAL?!
WHY ARE THEY LAUGHING?
MEIN GOTT! IT CAN'T BE!
MEANWHILE--
SHADOWCAT! AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU!
HAVE YOU FOUND ANY OF THE OTHERS?
LET'S SEE HOW MANY "MONKEY WRENCHES" WE CAN THROW INTO THAT JOKER'S PLANS AND PROGRAMS!
UH-OH! IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE BEEN CAU--!
MEGGAN!
NOT YET, BUT I'M WORKING ON IT... AND I'VE GOT A GOOD IDEA WHO'S BEHIND ALL THIS!
AND--
I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE SOMEHOW! CAN'T TELEPORT, IT HASN'T BEEN LONG ENOUGH SINCE MY LAST ONE--COULDN'T TAKE THE STRAIN!
THINK, MAN! THERE MUST BE--
--SOME WAY.
HEY, RAMBO, WATCH ME PULL A RABBIT OUT OF MY HAT!
AGAIN? THAT TRICK NEVER WORKS!
:GULP: YOU SAID IT!
EVEN WORSE THAN USUAL, VAN WINKLE!
FIRST LIONS AND TIGERS AND BEARS... AND NOW THIS!
NEVER FEAR! I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM!

GO ON, KARLOFF! STICK YOUR HEAD IN THE LION'S MOUTH!

BUT, AZZMAHOFF...

I SAID STICK YOUR HEAD IN!

STICK IT IN!

OR ARE YOU AFRAID OF THE BIG BAD CAT?

WHAT?!

BASHUMP

NO! IT CAN'T BE!

THE LION HAS SWALLOWED HIM!

THAT'S IT! HE MAY BE A LITTLE SMALL, BUT HE'S ALL I GOT!

:slurp:

HEY, KILLER!

WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN MYSELF INTO?!

WELL, ONE THING'S FOR SURE...

...IT'S SOMETHING I'D BETTER GET OUT OF!

BONG

AT LEAST THEY'RE RESILIENT!

LOOK OUT, JUMBO!

BLONK

SORRY ABOUT THAT, MEIN FREUND!

...BUT I'VE GOT PLACES TO GO...

...AND PEOPLE TO SEE!

THERE!

SMEH SMEH SMEH

THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!

IN A PIG'S EYE, MY FRIEND!

ELSEWHERE...

GREAT BALLS OF FIRE! WON'T THIS EVER END?!

GUESS I'LL HAVE TO TAKE A MORE ACTIVE ROLE!

POOM

DIDN'T TAKE MUCH TO GET RID OF THEM!

HUNH?! WHAT'S THAT?!

DON'T WORRY, MY LITTLE PRETTY! WE'LL BE BACK FOR YOU— AND YOUR LITTLE DOG TOO!

MY LITTLE DOG?!?

THIS JUST KEEPS GETTING WEIRDER AND WEIRDER!

MEANWHILE...

NICE TRY, DEMON, BUT IT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD!

OOOH! NICE SHOT, BIG MAMA!

THUMP PATH LUMP PATH LUMP PA

DON'T WORRY! I'VE GOT HIM COVERED!

SLUSH

OH, MY WORD! THIS IS EMBARRASSING!

PERHAPS THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE YOU'D PREFER TO COVER.

BOOM

AND NOW—

OH, NO!

HEY! LET GO OF MY TAIL!

THAT'S IT! HOLD ON TO THE LITTLE WORM—

KLOMP

--WHILE I SPRING INTO ACTION!

SPROING

INDEED!

YEAH— UHNH! WE'VE NEVER HAD SO MUCH FUN BEFORE!

THE CONTORTIONIST MAY HAVE SCREWED UP, BUT AT LEAST HE GAVE ME THIS IDEA!

FWUMP

YEAH, YEAH, BIG DEAL! LET'S JUST FINISH HIM OFF ONCE AND FOR ALL!

ANOTHER FINE MESS I'VE GOTTEN INTO!

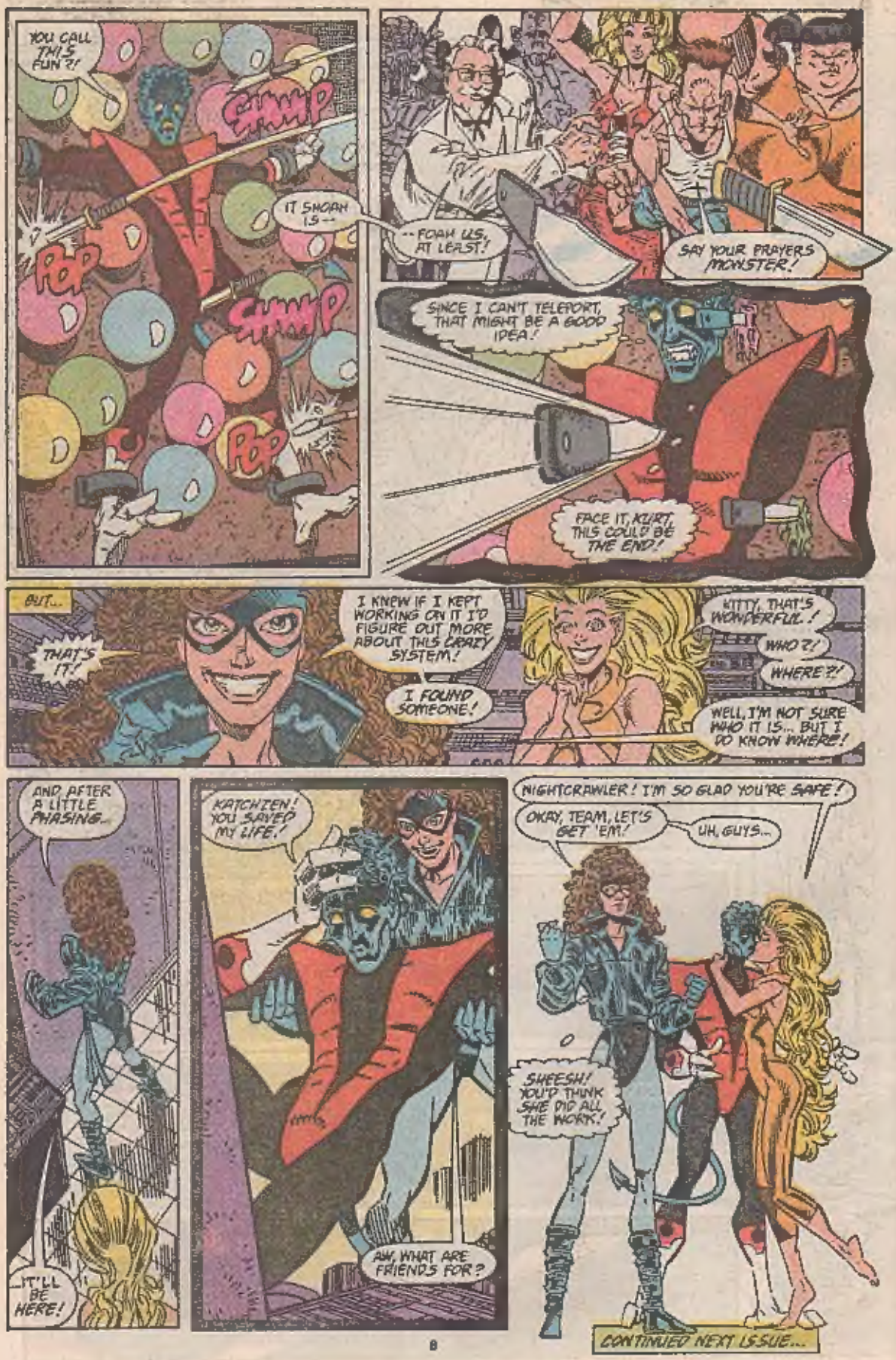
I WONDER IF HE'LL BOUNCE.

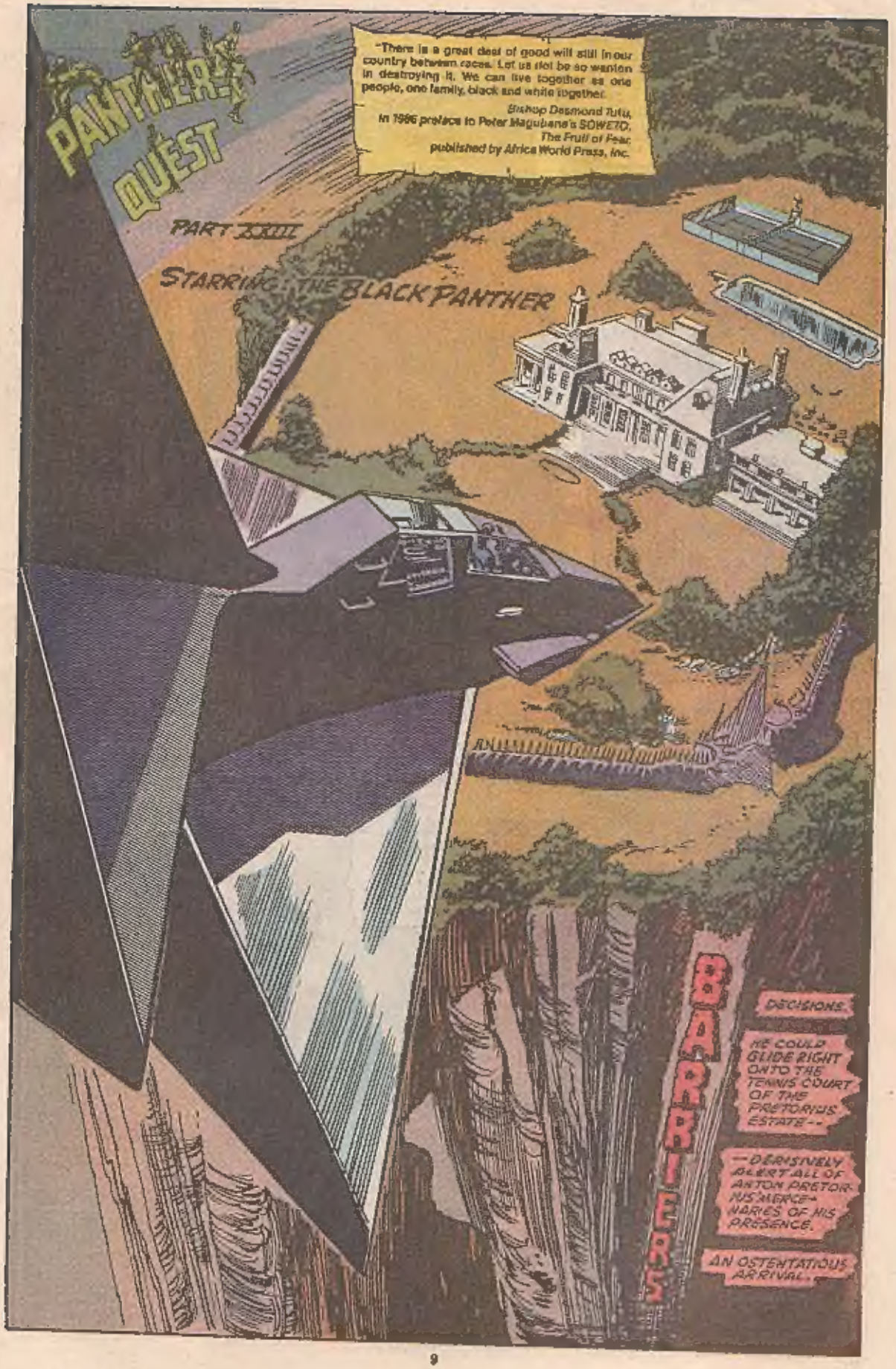
KABOOM

HE DOESN'T!

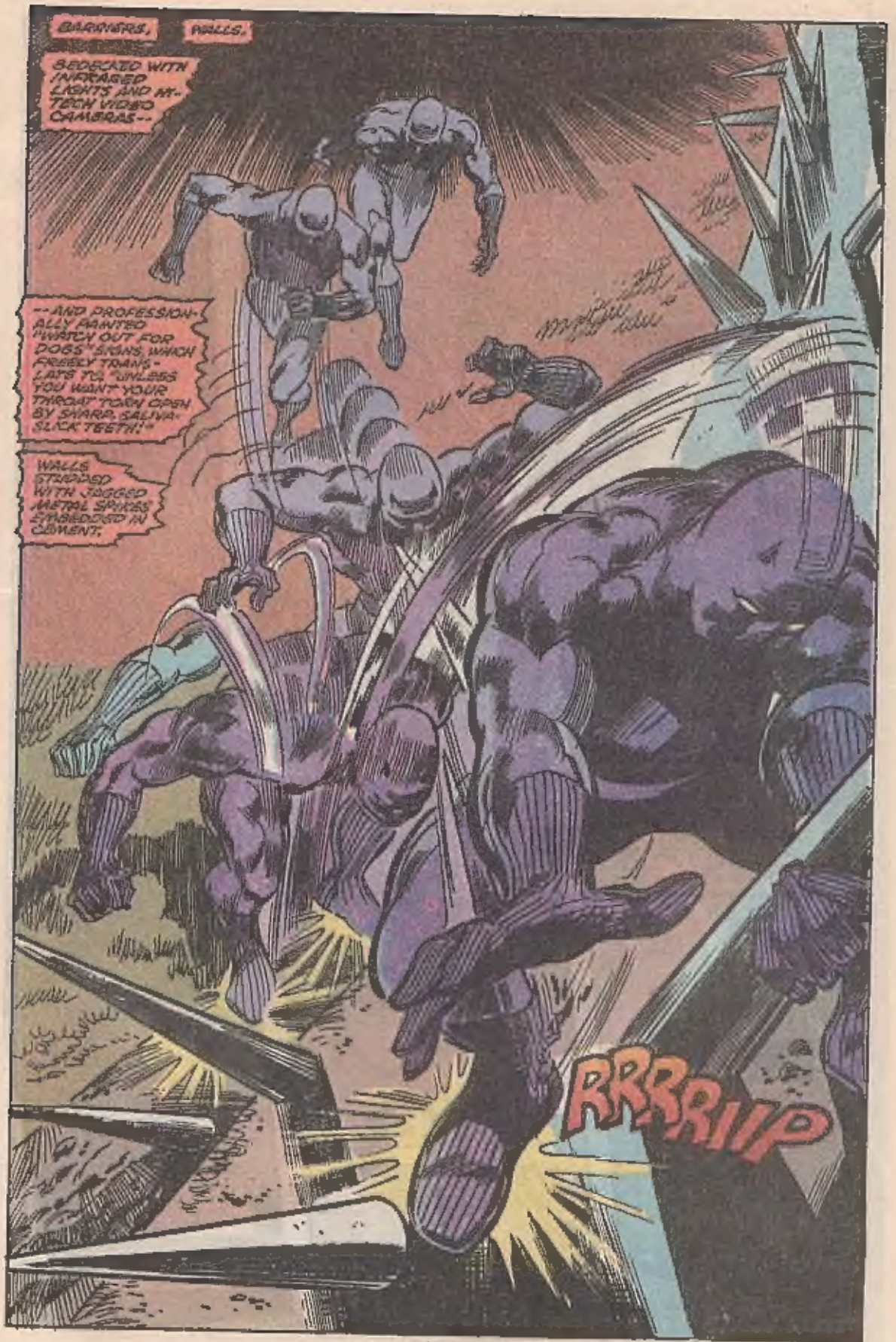
WAKE UP, SPOOKY! THIS IS GOING TO BE A LOT OF FUN!

UNNNHH...

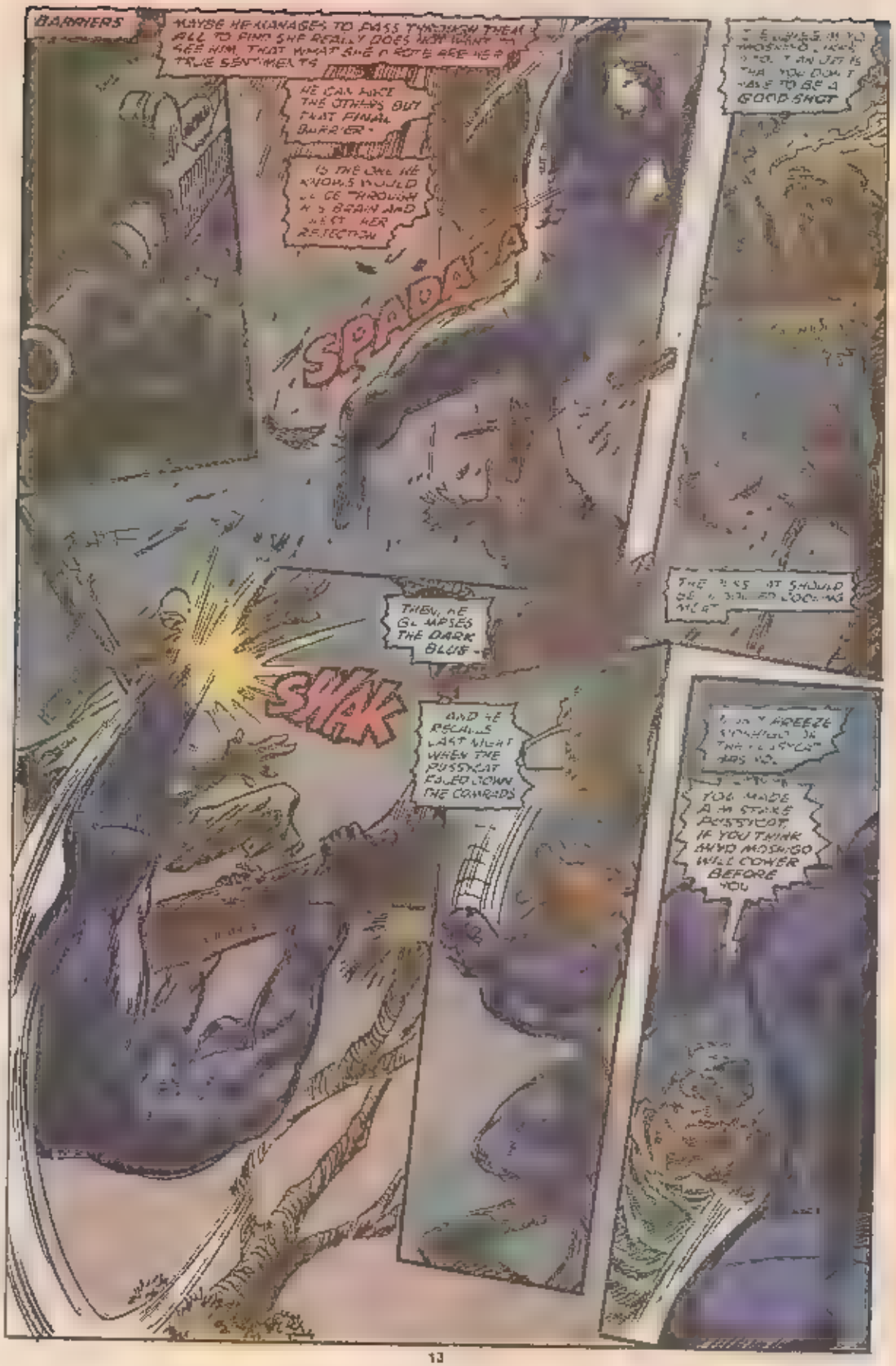

YOU CALL THIS FUN?!
CHUMP
POP
IT SHOAH IS--
CHUMP
POP
--FOAH US, AT LEAST!
SAY YOUR PRAYERS MONSTER!
SINCE I CAN'T TELEPORT, THAT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA!
FACE IT, KURT, THIS COULD BE THE END!
BUT...
THAT'S IT!
I KNEW IF I KEPT WORKING ON IT I'D FIGURE OUT MORE ABOUT THIS CRAZY SYSTEM!
I FOUND SOMEONE!
KITTY, THAT'S WONDERFUL!
WHO?!
WHERE?!
WELL, I'M NOT SURE WHO IT IS... BUT I DO KNOW WHERE!
AND AFTER A LITTLE PHASING...
...IT'LL BE HERE!
KATCHZEN! YOU SAVED MY LIFE!
AW, WHAT ARE FRIENDS FOR?
NIGHTCRAWLER! I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE SAFE!
OKAY, TEAM, LET'S GET 'EM!
UH, GUYS...
SHEESH! YOU'D THINK SHE DID ALL THE WORK!
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE...


PANTHER'S QUEST
PART XXIII
STARRING: THE BLACK PANTHER
"There is a great deal of good will still in our country between races. Let us not be so wanton in destroying it. We can live together as one people, one family, black and white together."
Bishop Desmond Tutu,
in 1986 preface to Peter Magubane's SOWETO,
The Fruit of Fear,
published by Africa World Press, Inc.
BARRIERS
DECISIONS.
HE COULD GLIDE RIGHT ONTO THE TENNIS COURT OF THE PRETORIUS ESTATE--
--DERISIVELY ALERT ALL OF ANTON PRETORIUS'MERCE-NARIES OF HIS PRESENCE.
AN OSTENTATIOUS ARRIVAL.

HE'D ENJOY THAT.
A DARK JOY, LETTING THE MAGISTRATE OF COMMUNICATIONS KNOW HIS MOST DREADED HAUNT IS CLOSE AT HAND FOR AN EARLY MORN SHOWDOWN.
HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT HOWEVER IT GOES, THE OUTCOME WILL MORE THAN LIKELY BE DECIDED BEFORE DAWN LIGHT.
NO SLOW ROUSAL FROM SILK SHEETS FOR YOU TONIGHT, ANTON PRETORIUS.
WHRRRR
KRRUUPP
DECISIONS.
HE LANDS SOUNDLESSLY AS A SHADOW.
IF HE CAN INVADE THE ESTATE UNDETECTED, HE WILL HAVE MORE TIME TO LEARN IF HIS MOTHER ACTUALLY IS INSIDE THOSE WALLS--
NOT AS SATISFYING AS ONE SPECTACULAR MOMENT OF DEFIANT ENTRANCE--
--BUT A CALCULATED CHANCE AT A MORE SATISFYING CONCLUSION.
--MAYBE HAVE A CHANCE TO LOCATE HER, CONFRONT HER BEFORE ANYONE ELSE IS EVEN AWARE THAT HE HAS PENETRATED THEIR SECURITY.


BARRIERS, WALLS.
BEDECKED WITH INFRARED LIGHTS AND HI-TECH VIDEO CAMERAS--
--AND PROFESSIONALLY PAINTED "WATCH OUT FOR DOGS" SIGNS, WHICH FREELY TRANSLATE TO "UNLESS YOU WANT YOUR THROAT TORN OPEN BY SHARP, SALIVA-SLICK TEETH!"
WALLS STUDDED WITH JAGGED METAL SPIKES EMBEDDED IN CEMENT.
RRRRIIP

BARRIERS
TIME.
DECADES SINCE HE HAS SEEN HIS MOTHER. SO VAGUE A MEMORY OF WHAT SHE LOOKED LIKE, MUCH LESS WHAT KIND OF PERSON SHE WAS
HE STILL HAS THE NOTE SIGNED WITH HER NAME "AMANDA," TELLING HIM TO "GO AWAY"
THE WORDS LEFT HIM FEELING BRITTLE AS IF THE SLIGHTEST TAP COULD MAKE HIM SHATTER
BUT THERE WEREN'T ANY TEARS. HE WAS ALREADY EMOTIONALLY DEHYDRATED BY THE CORPSE OF A LITTLE BOY WHO SHOULD HAVE HAD A FUTURE OF POSSIBILITIES
BARRIERS
BEAMER SEX 'N VIOLENCE" GORE COMMANDING HIS GUARD PATROLS
SOMEWHERE CLOSE HE IS SURE
IN SUBTLE WAYS HE CAN SENSE THEIR NEARNESS. BUT THE SPICY AROMA OF SCOTS FIR TREES—
AND TROPICAL VEGETATION MAKE THE GREAT CAT INCAPABLE OF PINPOINTING AN EXACT FIX
OTHERS WILL BE HIDDEN ABOUT THE CAREFULLY TENDED GROUNDS
THEIR JOB IS TO STOP HIM


BARRIERS
MAYBE HE MANAGES TO PASS THROUGH THEM ALL TO FIND SHE REALLY DOES NOW WANT TO SEE HIM. THAT WHAT SHE'S NOT BEEN SAYING IS TRUE SENTIMENTS
HE CAN HACK THE OTHERS OUT THAT FINAL BARRIER -
IS THE ONE HE KNOWS WOULD SEE THROUGH HIS BRAINWAVES TEST HER AFFECTION
I GUESS IF YOU MISSED MOST OF THE TIME THAT HOW DOES IT HAVE TO BE A GOOD SHOT
SPADA
THE BOSS SHOULD BE HERE SOON
THEN, HE GLIMPSES THE DARK BLUE -
SWAK
AND HE RECALLS LAST NIGHT WHEN THE PUSSYCAT FELL DOWN THE CORRIDOR
YOU MADE A MISTAKE PUSSYCAT IF YOU THINK WHO MOSKOW WILL COWER BEFORE YOU

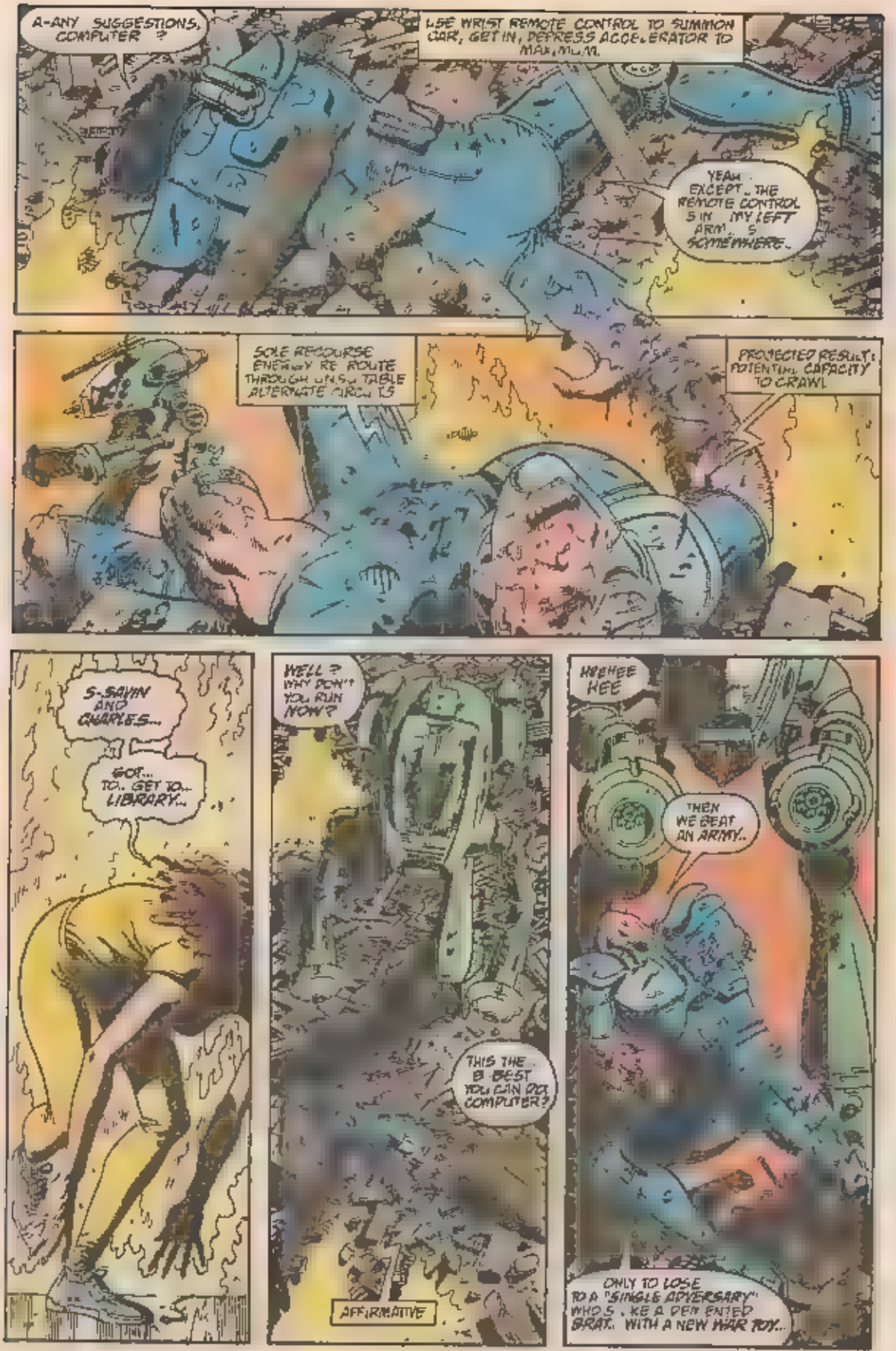
ONE SCREAMED SENTENCE THE FIRST WORDS T'CHALLA HAS HEARD IN HOURS.
A VOICE ARROGANT AND PANICKY AT THE SAME TIME.
THE GREAT CAT IS ALL SINEW STRENGTH, FLOWING
AMID AIR REVERSAL
LET THE ATTACKER TAKE THE BRUNT OF THE FALL...
HE'S PERPLEXED BY WHAT FILLS HIS EARS NEXT
THE INSIDIOUS SOUND OF SPIDER RENDING CLOTH TEARING MUSCLES FLESH SCRAPING THROUGH INTERMEDIATE BONE
HE SNIFFS THE BODY AND PROBES AT HIS ONYX
SECONDS PASS BEFORE HE REALIZES WITH MORE SYMBOLIC CONVICTION THAT THE FORCE OF THE MAN'S GRASP HAS PINNED THEM BACK TO THE WALL
THE BODY CONVULSES IN A SPASM OF PATHETICALLY FLUTTERING FINGERS-
-SUDDENLY SO FRAIL-
-AS A BUTTERFLY'S WINGS

SHOTS CAME FROM RASPBERRY GRAPE'S POSITION APPROACH WITH CAUTION.
HELL, I'M FOR LETTING THE DOGS CLOSE IN FIRST, CASE RASPBERRY GRAPE DIDN'T GET THE PUSSYCAT
WON'T BE SECONDS, THOSE BEASTS'LL BE ALL OVER THAT PLACE LIKE BEES ON HONEY.
RASPBERRY GRAPE, A CODE NAME FOR THE EVENT BELOW HIM.
HE WANTS TO SAY SOMETHING, NOT SORRY, FOR HE IS GLAD IT IS NOT HIS BODY GONE STILL
IN LIFE THERE WERE PLENTY IDEAS HE COULD EXPRESS THAT THIS MAN WOULD UNDERSTAND
HE HAD BOUGHT THE MATERIAL DILEMMA THAT ANTON DOCTRINE SOLD
NOTHING TO SAY THAT WOULD MEAN ANYTHING TO HIM OR RASPBERRY GRAPE
HE MUST MOVE! DOG'S NEWSHOUNDS ARE WITHIN WAR AND HE MUST BE LONG GONE BEFORE THEY ARRIVE.
THE GREAT CAT'S CLAWS CURVE ALWAYS TOWARD THE HEART
SLIPPING!
HE DIGS HIS FINGERS IN HARDER
THE TIPS OF HIS GLOVES AND FINGERS SHRED, BUT HE SUCCEEDS IN SECURING HIS HOLD AND CONTROLLING HIS DESCENT.
CLOSE ENOUGH TO THE PINE-NEEDLE COVERED GROUND--
-TO CHANCE A LEAP
HE HITS THE SOFT CARPET MADE FROM DECADES OF PINE NEEDLES
THE DOGS ARE SILENT NOW ON A CO[illegible] OF SCENTS FOR BEARING ON THE COVER HERE
THWIP

- MOVING ROUGHLY--
- FOLLOWED BY A LOW GROWL FROM DEEP IN THE PANTHER'S CHEST A VICIOUS WARNING HE DETECTS BEFORE THE BEAST BOUNDS INTO VIEW
THERE WOULD BE NO CALMING THIS MAN AS HE DID THE STORY THAT FIRST NIGHT IN THE ALLEY THIS SAME ATTACK DOG TRAINED TO GO STRAIGHT FOR THE KILL!
GRRRR
STILL HIS CAN OUTRUN IT
TAKE THE SHORTEST ROUTE THROUGH THE WOODS TO THE MAIN LAWN
CROSS THE TENNIS COURT FOR THE P.A. AND HOME.
ONE OF THE HOUNDS HAS THE PUSSYCAT ON THE RUN!
BY THE TIME WE FIND HIM IT'LL BE CHEWING DOW
THE DOBERMAN IS NOT GIVING UP THE CHASE BUT HE IS OUTDISTANCING IT HE IS CONFIDENT RUNNING TRUE AND STRONG NOT OUT OF BREATH AND NOT SPOTTED
EVADING THE BARRIERS
IT WILL TAKE A SHOT GIVE HIM FOOT--
AND HIS SENSE OF TRIUMPH--
BLAST
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE...

"OH, YOU WISH TO TRY RUNNING?"
"VERY WELL"
"YOU WANT TO HIDE?"
"ALL RIGHT"
COLDBLOOD
RISE AND SHINE
"BUT I WARN YOU, COLDBLOOD."
BOOM
"I AM EVERYWHERE."
WHUMP
CHUNK CHUNK CHUNK
"...AND YOU CAN NEVER GO FAST ENOUGH OR FAR ENOUGH TO ESCAPE ME."
BOOM
COMPUTER... YOU SURE ALL THE HUMAN TROOPS ARE GONE--AND ALL THE ROBOTS ARE DOWN?
AFFIRMATIVE, WE HAVE OVERCOME ALL BUT A SINGLE ADVERSARY
MAKO HIMSELF IN HIS WEAPON-WALKER
HEE HEE HEE.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU

CHAPTER X
THE KILLING GROUND
AHHRRR!
BOOOM
MY ARM--!
--IS ONLY THE BEGINNING, SINCE I SHALL NOW TAKE YOU APART PIECE BY DAMAGED PIECE!
I AM YOUR FATHER, COLDBLOOD!
I AM YOUR CREATOR!
I MADE YOU--AND NOW I'M GOING TO BREAK YOU!
HEE HEE HEE!


A-ANY SUGGESTIONS, COMPUTER ?
USE WRIST REMOTE CONTROL TO SUMMON CAR, GET IN, DEPRESS ACCELERATOR TO MAXIMUM.
YEAH . EXCEPT.. THE REMOTE CONTROL S IN MY LEFT ARM . S SOMEWHERE..
SOLE RESOURSE ENERGY RE ROUTE THROUGH UNSTABLE ALTERNATE CIRCUITS
PROJECTED RESULT: POTENTIAL CAPACITY TO CRAWL
S-SAYIN AND CHARLES...
GOT... TO.. GET TO.. LIBRARY..
WELL ? WHY DON'T YOU RUN NOW ?
THIS THE B BEST YOU CAN DO, COMPUTER?
AFFIRMATIVE
HEEHEE HEE
THEN WE BEAT AN ARMY..
ONLY TO LOSE TO A "SINGLE ADVERSARY" WHO S . KE A DEFENTED BRAT.. WITH A NEW WAR TOY..

I DESIGNED YOU, COLDBLOOD! I KNOW YOUR WEAK POINTS! I CAN-
CHOOM
WHAT THE-?
CHOOM
DIRECT HITS!
CHOOM
BUT IT'S NOT COLDBLOOD...
CHOOM
SO... WHO?!
ME, MAKO-- GINA DIXSON - YOUR COLLEAGUE IN PROJECT: ULTRA-TECH - FELLOW MURDERER OF ERIC SAVIN .. FELLOW CREATOR OF COLDBLOOD-7!
CHOOM
..I QUIT!
BUT IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED..
BOOM
STATUS REPORT SITUATION HOPELESS.
YOU'RE FORGETTING ONE THING, COMPUTER- GINA JUST BOUGHT US TIME TO CRAWL
..AND NOW THAT MY ARM'S IN REACH

" SO IS THE CAR "
TIK TEK TEK
BRUMBUMBUMBUMBUMBUM
" CAR RESPONDING, COLDBLOOD..
" ..HOMING IN ON ARM'S REMOTE CONTROL "
SPEED?
PUNCH!
OUT OF AMMUNITION, DEAR GIND?
THEN HERE IS MY RESPONSE...
WHO
" RESIGNATION ACCEPTED "
AND NOW BACK TO
453 M.P.H.
" TOO SLOW. "

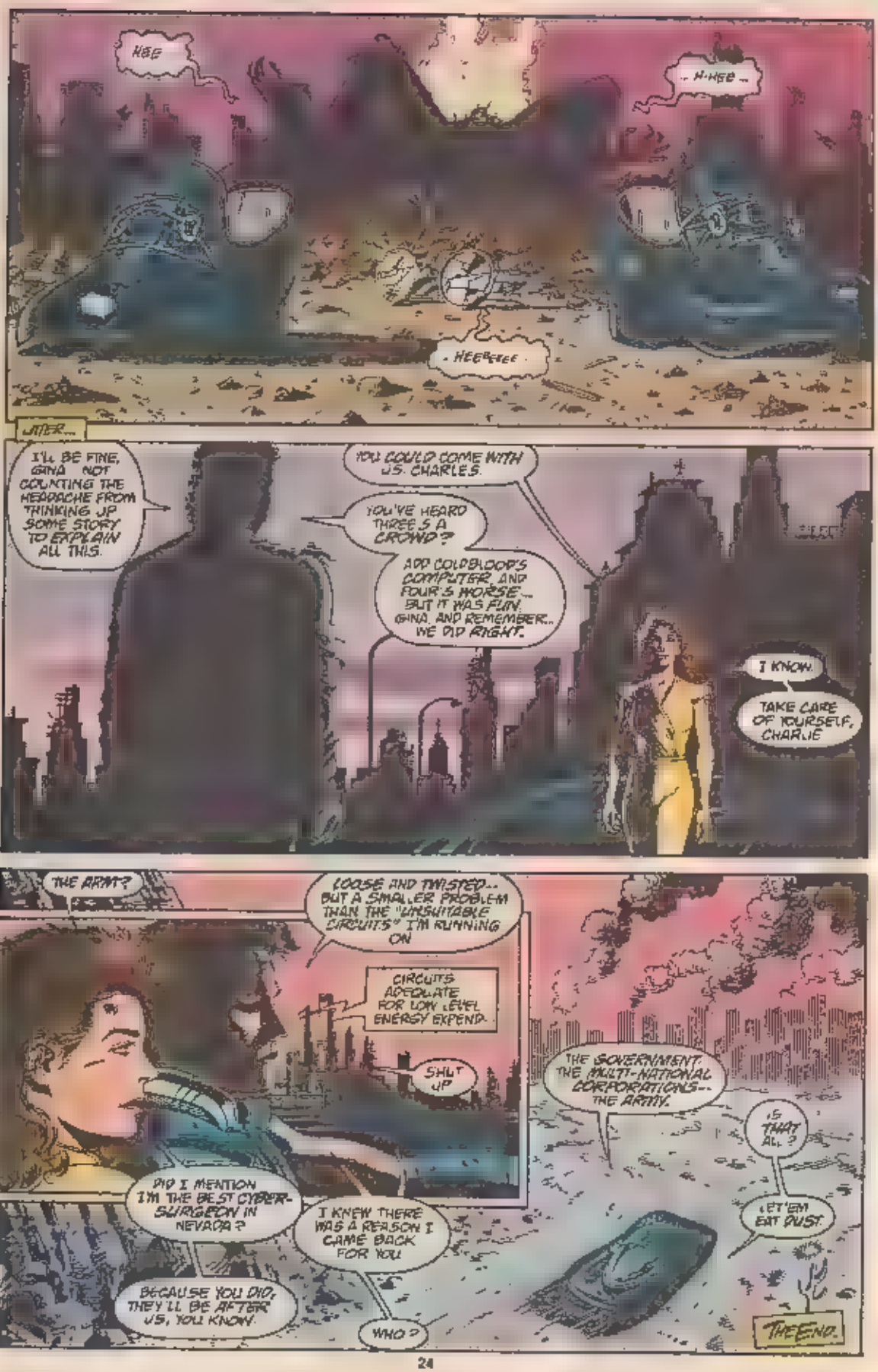
ERIC...?
STAY DOWN, GINA!
WHAM
BLAM
BOOM

GINA--!

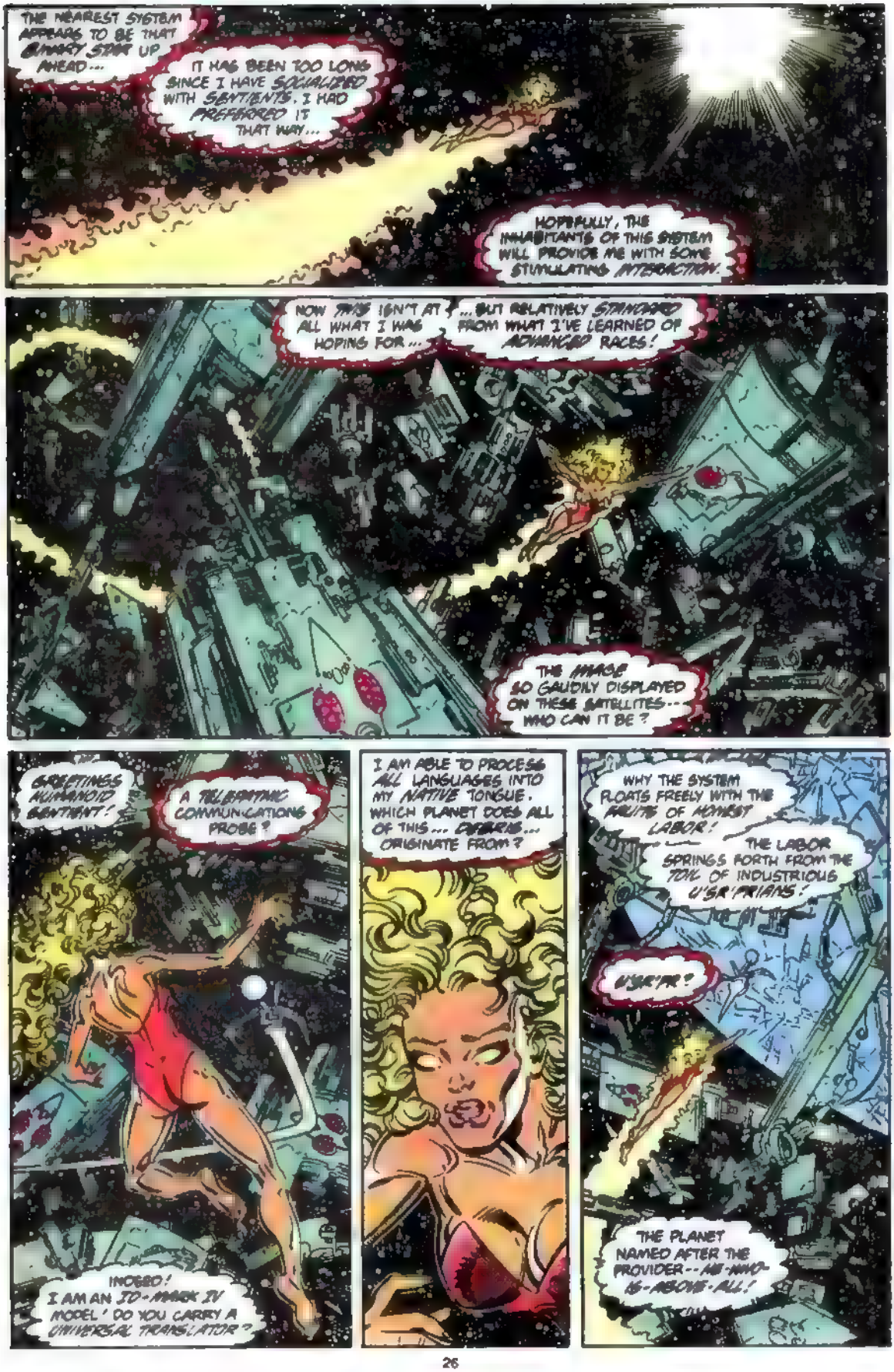
YOU ALL RIGHT?
Y-YES... MAYBE BROKEN RIBS.. BUT WE WERE TOO LATE.. TO SAVE CH-CHARLES...

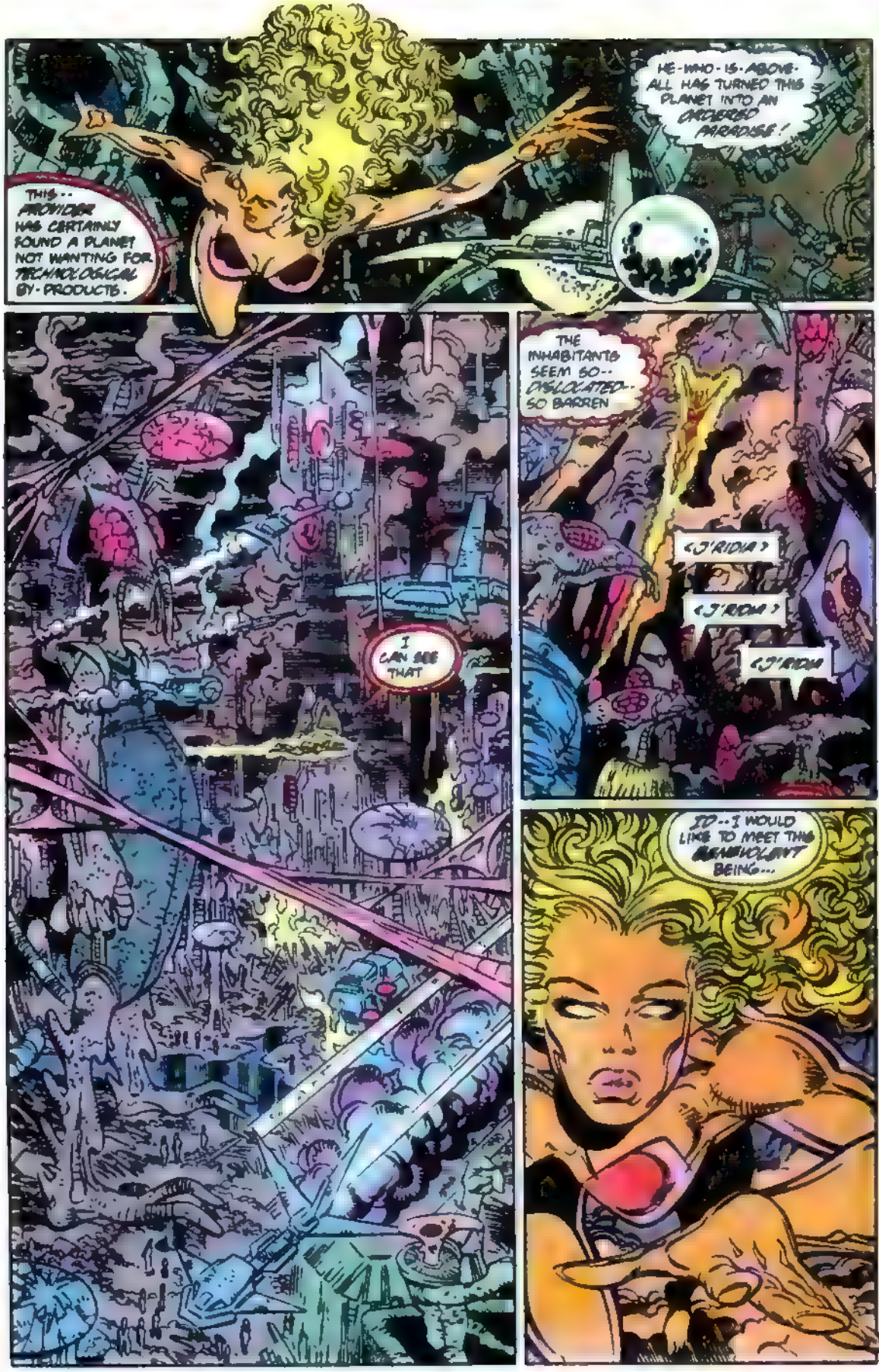
M-MAKO... MUST HAVE --
:HHHHH:

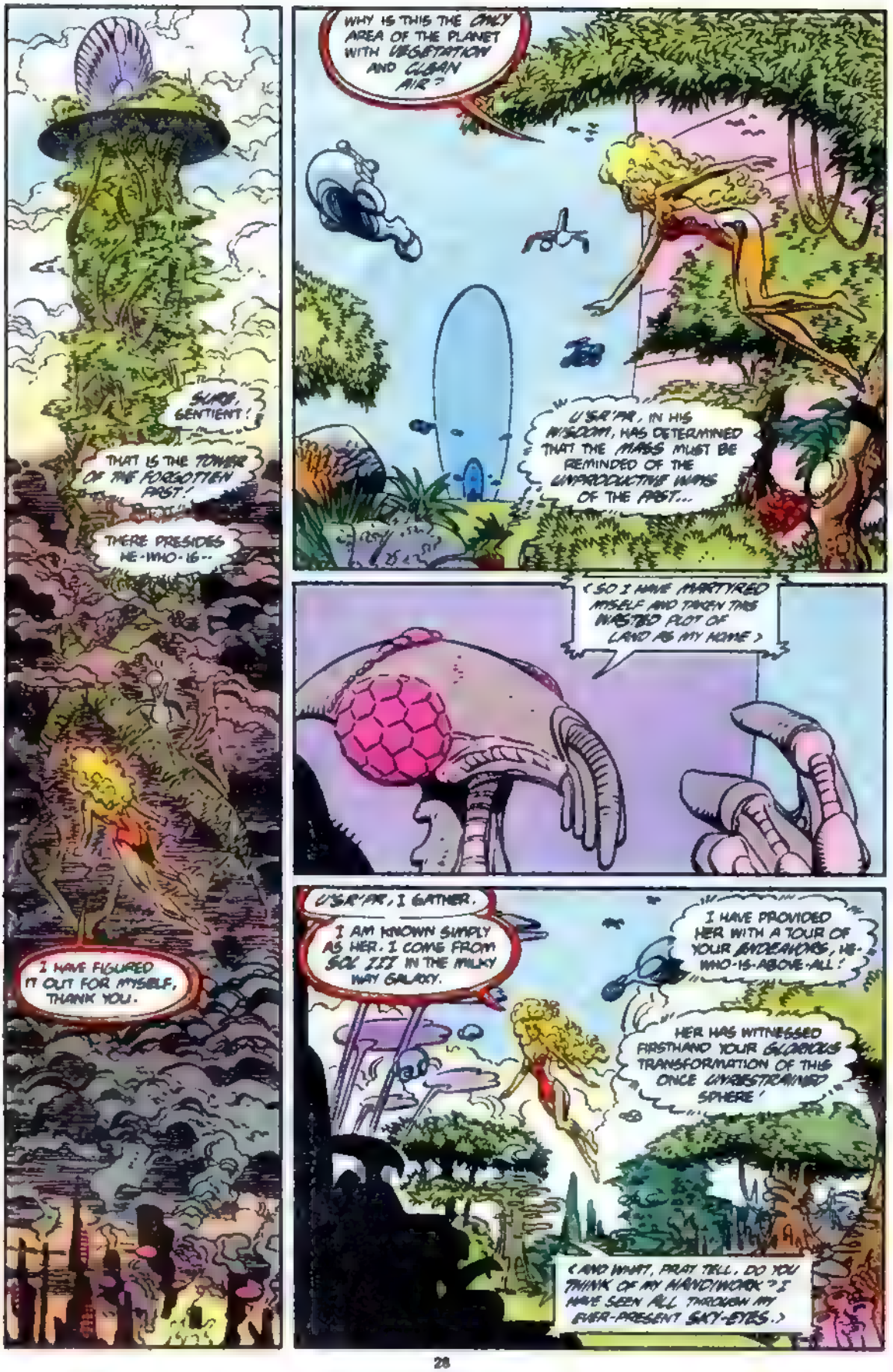
DON'T WORRY, I KNOW IT'S OVER.
I'M ALREADY BURNING, YOU SEE
I EVEN KNOW WHERE I'M GOING...
I JUST DON'T WANT TO GO ALONE, DEAR GINA
AND YOU, COLDBLOOD, YOU'VE HAD A RARE LIFE... MEETING YOUR MAKER BEFORE DEATH...
A PITY YOU STOPPED BELIEVING IN ME AND IN MY MASTER PLAN...
FREE WILL, YOU SEE, WAS NEVER PART OF THE-
--AGH-K!
BRAM
OH-CHARLES.. EVEN Y-YOU, CHARLES.. ALL OF YOU BETRAYED ME.. WHEN ALL I--
JUST DIE, MAKO
WHAM
AMEN.

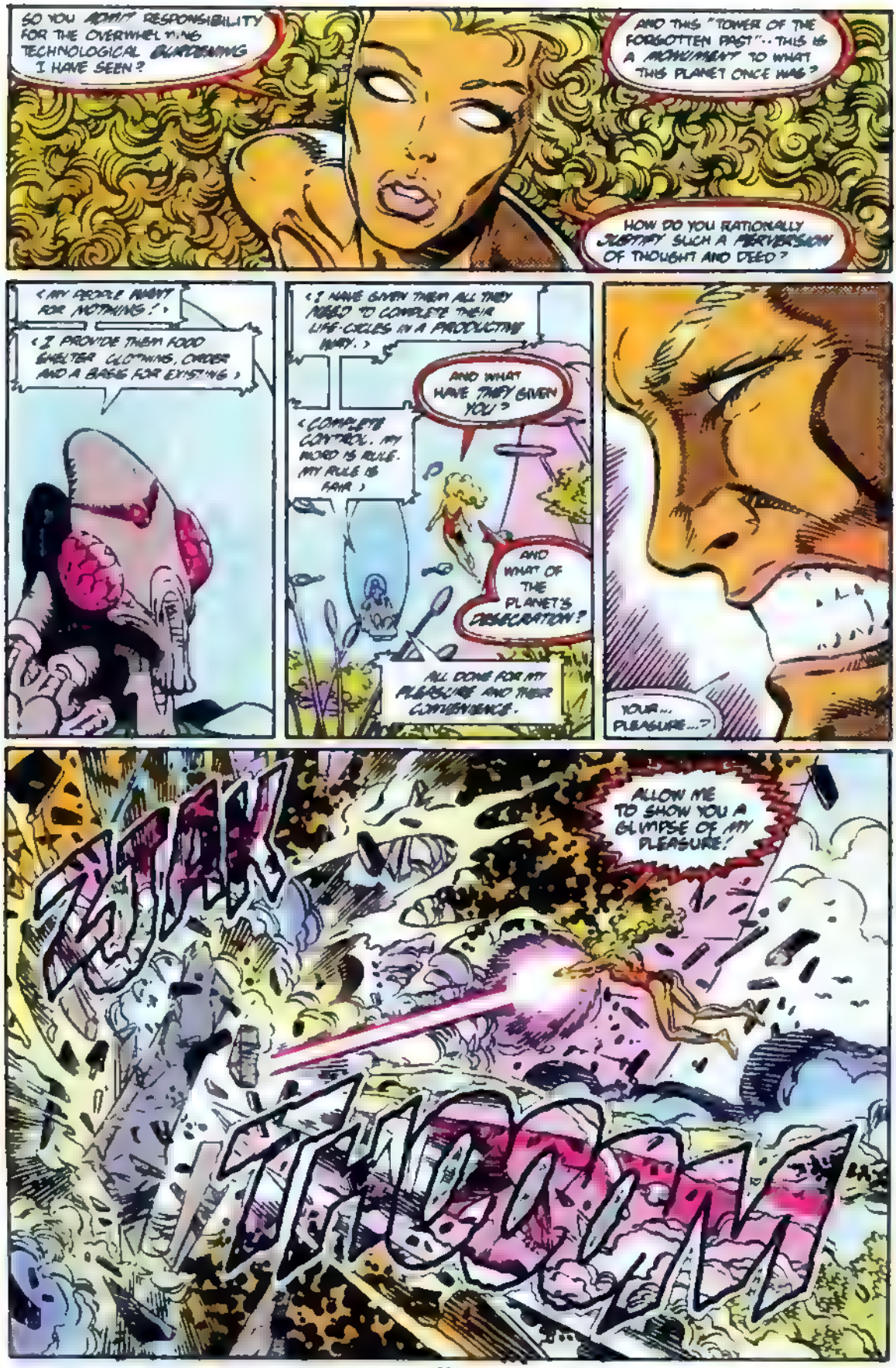

HEE
- N-HEE -
- HEEEEEE -
LATER...
I'LL BE FINE, GINA NOT COUNTING THE HEADACHE FROM THINKING UP SOME STORY TO EXPLAIN ALL THIS.
YOU COULD COME WITH US, CHARLES.
YOU'VE HEARD THREE'S A CROWD?
ADD COLDBLOOD'S COMPUTER, AND FOUR'S HORSE... BUT IT WAS FUN, GINA. AND REMEMBER... WE DID RIGHT.
I KNOW.
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, CHARLIE
THE ARMY?
LOOSE AND TWISTED... BUT A SMALLER PROBLEM THAN THE "UNSUITABLE CIRCUITS" I'M RUNNING ON
CIRCUITS ADEQUATE FOR LOW LEVEL ENERGY EXPEND.
SHUT UP
THE GOVERNMENT, THE MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS... THE ARMY.
IS THAT ALL?
LET 'EM EAT DUST
DID I MENTION I'M THE BEST CYBER-SURGEON IN NEVADA?
I KNEW THERE WAS A REASON I CAME BACK FOR YOU
BECAUSE YOU DID, THEY'LL BE AFTER US, YOU KNOW.
WHO?
THE END.

HER IN GODS R'US
THE OUTER GALAXIES ARE HER PLAYGROUND!
HER SOARS THROUGH ASTEROID OUTCROPPINGS AS A CHILD WOULD SWING THROUGH MONKEY-BARS!
HER HAS SPENT HER TIME OFF-EARTH IN THE PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING.
IN THE PURSUIT OF HUMANITY...
...TODAY, SHE WILL DISCOVER IT...
...WITHIN HER VERY HEART.


THE NEAREST SYSTEM APPEARS TO BE THAT ANARCY STAR UP AHEAD...
IT HAS BEEN TOO LONG SINCE I HAVE SOCIALIZED WITH SENTIENTS. I HAD PREFERRED IT THAT WAY...
HOPEFULLY, THE INHABITANTS OF THIS SYSTEM WILL PROVIDE ME WITH SOME STIMULATING INTERACTION.
NOW THIS ISN'T AT ALL WHAT I WAS HOPING FOR...
...BUT RELATIVELY STANDARD FROM WHAT I'VE LEARNED OF ADVANCED RACES!
THE IMAGE SO GAUDILY DISPLAYED ON THESE SATELLITES--- WHO CAN IT BE?
GREETINGS HUMANOID SENTIENT!
A TELEPATHIC COMMUNICATIONS PROBE?
INDEED! I AM AN ID-MARK IV MODEL! DO YOU CARRY A UNIVERSAL TRANSLATOR?
I AM ABLE TO PROCESS ALL LANGUAGES INTO MY NATIVE TONGUE. WHICH PLANET DOES ALL OF THIS... DEBRIS... ORIGINATE FROM?
WHY THE SYSTEM FLOATS FREELY WITH THE FRUITS OF HONEST LABOR!
THE LABOR SPRINGS FORTH FROM THE TOIL OF INDUSTRIOUS U'SA'RIANS!
U'SA'RI?
THE PLANET NAMED AFTER THE PROVIDER--ME-NIKO-IS-ABOVE-ALL!


HE-WHO-IS-ABOVE-ALL HAS TURNED THIS PLANET INTO AN ORDERED PARADISE!
THIS.. PROVIDER HAS CERTAINLY FOUND A PLANET NOT WANTING FOR TECHNOLOGICAL BY-PRODUCTS.
I CAN SEE THAT
THE INHABITANTS SEEM SO.. DISLOCATED.. SO BARREN
«J'RIDIA»
«J'RIDIA»
«J'RIDIA»
I'D.. I WOULD LIKE TO MEET THIS BENEVOLENT BEING...


SLURP, GENTIENT!
THAT IS THE TOWER OF THE FORGOTTEN PAST!
THERE PRESIDES HE-WHO-IS--
I HAVE FIGURED IT OUT FOR MYSELF, THANK YOU.
WHY IS THIS THE ONLY AREA OF THE PLANET WITH VEGETATION AND CLEAN AIR?
U'SA'PA, IN HIS WISDOM, HAS DETERMINED THAT THE MASS MUST BE REMINDED OF THE UNPRODUCTIVE WAYS OF THE PAST...
(SO I HAVE MARTYRED MYSELF AND TAKEN THIS WASTED PLOT OF LAND AS MY HOME.)
U'SA'PA, I GATHER.
I AM KNOWN SIMPLY AS HER. I COME FROM SOL III IN THE MILKY WAY GALAXY.
I HAVE PROVIDED HER WITH A TOUR OF YOUR ENDEAVORS, HE-WHO-IS-ABOVE-ALL!
HER HAS WITNESSED FIRSTHAND YOUR GLORIOUS TRANSFORMATION OF THIS ONCE UNREGISTRAINED SPHERE!
(AND WHAT, PRAY TELL, DO YOU THINK OF MY HANDIWORK? I HAVE SEEN ALL THROUGH MY EVER-PRESENT SKY-EYES.)


SO YOU ADMIT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OVERWHELMING TECHNOLOGICAL BLASPHEMY I HAVE SEEN?
AND THIS "TOWER OF THE FORGOTTEN PAST"... THIS IS A MONUMENT TO WHAT THIS PLANET ONCE WAS?
HOW DO YOU RATIONALLY JUSTIFY SUCH A PERVERSION OF THOUGHT AND DEED?
< MY PEOPLE WANT FOR NOTHING. >
< I PROVIDE THEM FOOD SHELTER CLOTHING, ORDER AND A BASIS FOR EXISTING >
< I HAVE GIVEN THEM ALL THEY NEED TO COMPLETE THEIR LIFE-CYCLES IN A PRODUCTIVE MANNER. >
AND WHAT HAVE THEY GIVEN YOU?
< COMPLETE CONTROL. MY WORD IS RULE. MY RULE IS FAIR. >
AND WHAT OF THE PLANET'S DESECRATION?
ALL DONE FOR MY PLEASURE AND THEIR CONVENIENCE.
YOUR... PLEASURE...?
ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU A GLIMPSE OF MY PLEASURE!
ZTAK
THOOM

AHH!
«WHY--WHY HAVE YOU--DONE THIS?»
«YOUR ROUGHNESS WILL PROVE YOUR UNDOING!!»
ZZZAK
HMMM...A RELATIVELY MILD FORM OF AMBIENT COSMIC ENERGY... TRACES OF METHANE DERIVATION... CULLED FROM THE ATMOSPHERE, OBVIOUSLY...
ARE YOU A GENETIC MUTANT OR DID YOU ACQUIRE THESE ABILITIES TECHNOLOGICALLY?
WHICHEVER, YOUR ABILITIES MIGHT THREATEN THE POOR POPULACE OF THIS PLANET, BUT I ASSURE YOU...
AH!
FOR THE SAME REASON I PROVIDED A FORCE FIELD TO PROTECT YOU--
--FOR YOUR OWN GOOD AND THAT OF THIS PLANET!
...I AM NOT UNPREPARED!!

NOW LET THE VISUAL NETWORK WHICH PERPETUATED YOUR MONUMENTAL EGO ALSO PROVIDE THE MEANS OF YOUR DOWNFALL!!
<J'RIDIA>
<J'RIDIA>
<J'RIDIA>
<J'RIDIA>
<J'RIDIA>
<J'RIDIA>
<J'RIDIA>
LET THOSE ENSLAVED SAVOR THEIR FIRST TASTE OF FREEDOM!
AND LET YOUR PATHETIC POWERS BE NEVERMORE!
SHA
YOUR COSMIC ENERGY HAS BEEN DRAINED FOREVER--
--NOW YOU WILL FACE THOSE YOU ABUSED ON EQUAL TERMS!
<NO! NO!>
<THEY WILL REND ME APPENDAGE FROM APPENDAGE!>
PERHAPS...
...PERHAPS NOT...
<J'RIDIA>
<J'RIDIA>
<J'RIDIA>
<J'RIDIA>
<J'RIDIA>
<J'RIDIA>
<J'RIDIA>

STOP CHANTING!
I GIVE YOU A FALSE GOD. I GIVE YOU A CREATURE THAT HAS DEFILED YOUR WORLD AND DEGRADED YOUR LIVES!
WHAT IS TO BE YOUR JUDGMENT?
<WORK! CLEAN!>
<WORK? CLEAN? ME?>
YES. A LOVELY PEOPLE YOU COULDN'T CORRUPT.
<HAH HOH HOH!>
YOU-- THANK ME?
<WE ADHOR YOU-- J'RIDIA-- SHE-WHOSE-TRAIL-DUSTS-MORE!>
<J'RIDIA-- STARDUSTER!>
NO!
DO NOT REPLACE WORSHIP OF ONE BLIND GOD WITH ANOTHER!
I WILL HELP YOU REBUILD PARADISE, BUT WE WILL DO IT THROUGH THE TOIL OF OUR SWEAT.
IN THIS MANNER, THE GOAL IS EARNED, NOT GRANTED. IN THIS MANNER, WE WILL WORK AS EQUALS.
AND, TOGETHER, WE WILL CREATE A WORLD AS LOVELY AS THE PEOPLE WHO WORK IT...
CHUNK
THE END... FOR NOW!

MARVEL® READERS PRESENT

Dear MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS,

After twenty-five issues of MCP, I felt compelled to write to say how much I have enjoyed the series (again!).

McGregor's and Colan's Black Panther serial has once again proven to be another thought-provoking and beautiful attempt to show that the Black Panther is not an unemotional leader who cares only about fulfilling his own desires. Instead, he is portrayed as a man who genuinely cares for the welfare of others, even those who are not his own countrymen. I sincerely hope after his run in MCP ends that he will find his way into his own series again with the guidance of the current creative team.

"Pharaoh's Legacy" is turning into a pretty interesting tale especially because it has Havok (an under-used X-Man) as well as the Living Pharaoh (or someone who looks like him). I have only heard rumors about the pair's special bond. Since I have only begun to read comics, I would really like to hear more about their "relationship" and hopefully the serial will accomplish this. The prelude to the Nth MAN series proved to be as enticing as I hoped it would be. It was a real treat to read and I *know* this new saga from Marvel will be just as wonderful.

The one shot was equally as enjoyable a read as the other three, but how could it not be when Scott Lobdell does the writing? I hope Scott continues to stay on the MCP staff with his wonderful story ideas.

Well, before I go, I just have one question to ask. How long will it be before the "Deadly Foes of Spider-Man" series finds its way into MCP? I have heard you planned to create one and I have been anxiously awaiting its publication.

Peter Piotrowski
7831 South Natchez
Burbank, IL 60459

Don't worry, Peter, "The Deadly Foes of Spider-Man" saga is on the way, and take our word for it, it'll be worth the wait. As for Alex and Leila, we hope you liked the way that story ended. You're right, there was a very strong bond between them. A little too strong, some might say. . .

Dear Presenters,

Although I would give anything to have the covers of this title a little less mutant dominated, issue #25 was another of those issues that receives high marks. This issue had a nice mix of story content.

Havok—The portrayal of Leila is the real down point of this entire issue. If more women are reading comics today, after seeing the way Leila is portrayed they have to be asking themselves, "why?" With 1/4 of the story gone, I am still wondering who the main antagonist is. Hopefully, the tempo of the story will pick up during the next few installments.

Black Panther—As we move past the halfway point all of the players are falling into place. Enjoying this story as much as I am, I can only wonder where the Panther will show up next once this epic concludes in six months.

Nth Man—While I have no intention of picking up the regular title, the intro story was very well done. I would have to say that this format is well suited for introducing new characters to readers that may not take a chance on blindly purchasing the first issue. So when are we going to see a Quasar one-shot in these pages?

Ursa Major—I enjoyed this story so much I began to wonder why we have never seen a book or maxi-series on the Soviet Super Soldiers. I can't tell if it was intentional or not, but all of the scenes (clothing, vehicles, mountains, etc. . .) looked pretty generic and this story could have been portrayed as taking place in the American heartland rather than in Russia. If this was a purposeful attempt by the writer to show how similar the two countries and their people are, then congratulations. On the other hand, if this was an attempt to portray Russia without doing the proper research, then shame on you!

This comic continues to amaze and impress me and is one of the best on the market today. Now if you could only sprinkle some non-super hero, western and/ or horror tales throughout this title you would really have a topnotch anthology title on your hands.

Charles S. Novinskie
P.O. Box 1323
Grand Junction, CO 81502

We'll see what we can do, Charles. Also, hopefully you like the fact that Leila was the antagonist of the story, and that's why she seemed so strange!

Dear Presenters,

Everyone turned in a fine performance on MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #25. I really enjoyed the Havok story, in both story and art! One thing I don't understand though, is that Alex Summers hardly shows an ounce of grief over Polaris, even though he spent a good portion of his life with her and was deeply in love with her. If my memory serves me, he hasn't cried once!

Now on to the Black Panther: I liked it somewhat, but I'm having a little trouble following it, so it's not one of my favorites. The art by Gene and Tom looks exquisite, though.

I really enjoyed the Nth Man story! It was terrific. I believe that Ron Wagner and Fred Fredricks make a great art team, and I am eagerly looking foward to the upcoming Nth MAN series. The Ursa Major story was a nice read, and the artwork was fair. I found it refreshing to learn about the character which I was very unfamiliar with. I hope to see more about him in the future.

Speaking of the future, someday I'd like to see stories involving Psylocke, Rogue (and her split personality), Mary Jane Parker, the Black Knight, and Ben Grimm. Thanks for listening!

Alan R. Reeves
700 N. 150th St., RR 1
Basehor, KS 66007

Thanks for writing, Alan. We'll try to accommodate your suggestions as soon as humanly possible. as for your comments, we hope you are buying the regular Nth MAN series. It's still by the same team you like so much, and we here think it's a fine book. Also, Havok has always been the type of man who tries to hide his feelings as much as possible, so it's very reasonable for us never to see him cry. One effect the loss of Polaris did have on him was his immediate attachment to another woman, who kept him from worrying about Polaris quite so much. We guess he picked the wrong woman, huh. . .?

Dear Marvel,

I just read MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #26, and I was amazed and overwhelmed by Coldblood. The new crime fighting cyborg is great! I can't wait for the next issues to come out. I also hope you will publish a regular series with him. Oh yeah, I love his car, too!

Craig Schatzman
2483 W. 16th St.
Brooklyn, NY 11214

Glad you like Coldblood so much, Craig. But we're going to have to hear from a lot more people if he's going to get his own series. . . Let's hear what everyone else thinks of him!

Dear Marvel,

Well, MCP has reached issue #26 and for the most part has been outstanding. It is easily one of my favorite mags. The Cyclops, Wolverine, and the ongoing Black Panther series have all been excellent, and Havok looks real promising right now. The other continuing features were pretty good, too, with the exception of Colossus. Even though I don't necessarily care for one-parters, I did enjoy a few of them, with the Red Wolf and Willie Lumpkin stories being my favorites.

So how can MCP be even better? Well, I do have a couple of suggestions. First, have at least three continuing features whenever possible going. Second, get rid of the X-MEN and X-FACTOR logos that have been on the covers lately. I find them quite bothersome. I'm not saying I don't like these two teams, but the name of this comic is MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS, and that includes non-mutants. Also I think it's about time some other features besides the mutants appeared (by themselves) on the front cover. I've written to you about this before, and am doing so again because this is something I would really like to see. Why don't you ask your other readers in the letters page how they feel about this matter? After all, this isn't just another mutant book.

William Blevins
135 Spencer
Ferndale, MI 48220

Let's hear it, folks. . .

HER
VS. A GOD GONE MAD!
COLDBLOOD
THE CONCLUSION!
BLACK PANTHER
STUCK IN SOUTH AFRICA